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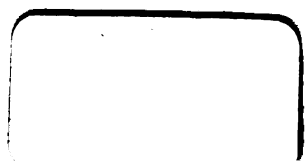
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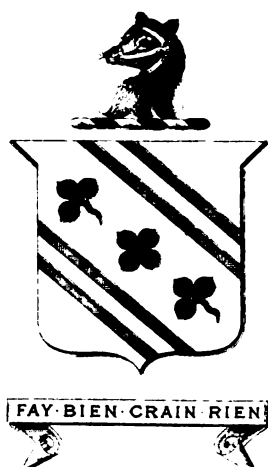


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(Benson)

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GENEALOGY

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OF THE FAMILY OF

BENSON

OF BANGER HOUSE AND NORTHWOODS,
IN THE PARISH OF RIPON AND CHAPELRY
OF PATELEY BRIDGE.

WITH BIOGRAPHICAL and ILLUSTRATIVE
NOTES

BY

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MDCCCXCIV.

Eton:
GEORGE NEW.

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A FEW WORDS ABOUT A GENEALOGY.

~~IT is important to prove every step in a genealogy.~~

NOTE.

Since the Book was sent to Press, Mr. A. H. Inman has pointed out that an error has been made in the Pedigree by confusing Anthony Benson (22) with Captain Anthony Beckwith, and that the son Robert, with whom I have credited Anthony Benson, is really a Beckwith. I remember that the name was a difficult one to decipher, but I acknowledge, with gratitude to Mr. Inman, that I have deciphered it wrong, and that Anthony Benson must be at once deprived of his rank of Captain and of his only son Robert.

A. C. B.

BENSON (2) was chaplain to the Lady SCROPE of Masham, and is mentioned in her will (Testam. Ebor. Surtees Society); another branch migrated to Ribblesdale, and held the grange of Copman-howe (now Capon Hall) between Settle and Malham. A Robert BENSON (3) held the Lodge at Brighouse, in Nidderdale, early in the fourteenth century, and Robert BENSON (4) not improbably his son,

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A FEW WORDS ABOUT A GENEALOGY.

IT is important to prove every step in a genealogy by means of a monument, a will, or an entry in registers; no statements are so loosely made as genealogical statements, or so open to exaggeration, except perhaps statements as to inherited fortunes; this has been the case with the family under consideration; the following paper is meant to dispose of a few erroneous statements which have been hastily or inaccurately made, and to substitute a basis of fact for shadowy hypotheses.

So far as can be discovered from registers, the BENSON family were tenants of Fountains Abbey, and Foresters. John (1) held a toft from the Abbey at Swinton-by-Masham, as long ago as 1348; his descendant, Sir John BENSON (2) was chaplain to the Lady SCROPE of Masham, and is mentioned in her will (Testam.Ebor. Surtees Society); another branch migrated to Ribblesdale, and held the grange of Copman-howe (now Capon Hall) between Settle and Malham. A Robert BENSON (3) held the Lodge at Brighouse, in Nidderdale, early in the fourteenth century, and Robert BENSON (4) not improbably his son,

Helic v b No 1142

held the Grange at Calfal (now Covill), a few miles further up Nidderdale, near Ramsgill. Several of his descendants are buried at Middlesmoor, and this branch of the family died out in the person of Mary BENSON of Bouthwaite Grange (close to Covill) in the last century.

In 1480 Thomas (5) was Forester at the Branga or Banger House, a forest lodge, which still exists as a farm between Thornthwaite and Dacre, in the township of Dacre; he was succeeded by his son, who at the suppression of the greater monasteries acquired the freehold. We find the Banger House descending in the direct line till 1802. Banger House is now a small farm with one little piece of the ancient building, the door and some mullioned windows of the old lodge, in the centre of the range of farm buildings. The name is now generally used in the plural as Banger Houses, and includes several adjoining tenements.

From Thomas (5), Banger House passed to his son Thomas (6). (Fount. Abbey Reg.). Thomas (6) had at least three children, the eldest of whom was Thomas (7) who died apparently childless in 1563. The property accordingly descended to the second son Christopher (8), who was succeeded by his eldest son John (9), who died in 1630. The property then descended to John's eldest son John (10), who married Ellen RIDD in 1622, and died in 1649, leaving Banger House to his eldest son John (11), who married Mary YATES in 1649, and died in 1706:

he was succeeded by a son, John (12), and he again by a son, John (13), who died unmarried in 1730 ; John (13) by a brother Robert (14), who died 1751. Robert (14), was succeeded by his son, Robert (15), who died 1753, and he by his son John (16), and the property then came into the possession of William (17), son of Robert (14), who died in 1802, at Banger House, a very old man. William's sister, Mary (18) married a WIGGLESWORTH, whose daughter Ellen WIGGLESWORTH lived on at Banger with her aunt Mary, William's widow ; when Ellen WIGGLESWORTH married a NEWBOULD, she named her eldest son BENSON, whose son Benson NEWBOULD is the present occupier. Banger House has become a mere farm, and passed into other hands : but it is curious to note that the name has remained in the house for more than four hundred years.

Another son (19) of Thomas BENSON's (5) must be concluded to have settled at Dacre or Dacre Banks, a hamlet on the old road between Fountains Abbey and Bolton Abbey, as his descendants lived there till the beginning of the present century. His eldest son was Christopher (20) whose eldest son was Anthony (21), whose son Anthony (22) took part in the civil war, probably on the Parliamentary side, and became a Captain. There seems reason to identify him with the Lieut. BENSON who was taken prisoner at Wakefield. One son of Captain Anthony BENSON is registered at Pateley Bridge, Robert (23), who predeceased his father in 1650.

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We must now revert to the elder line : Christopher's (8) fourth son was Alexander (24), whose only son John (25) was born in 1599. He married Alison or Alice, daughter of Robert MYERS, of Northwoods, or Norwoods, a little estate of barren lands and oak woods near Dacre, now belonging to Sir Henry INGILBY. It is one of this family of MYERS, Mary by name, who died a centenarian, and is buried at Pateley. You can trace the plan of the old house at Northwoods, though part has been rebuilt and part turned into out-houses. There is left standing an old mullioned window, and near it a lintel stone with the initials "R. M.", Robert MYERS, father of Mrs. John BENSON.

John BENSON (25) left at least four sons of whom the eldest, John (26) died in 1686. The second son Robert (27), seems to have succeeded to his maternal grandfather's house of Northwoods, from whom he also got his name.

Northwoods is now called Lower Northwoods : Upper Northwoods being an adjacent farm, of comparatively modern date, nearer to Hayshaw, the land of which has been cut out of the old estate of Northwoods.

The birth of Robert (27) of Northwoods is not recorded in the Register at Pateley Bridge, but was probably between 1640 and 1650, as his own eldest child was born in 1673 : his family consisted of one son (28), born

1678, and three daughters. Robert (28) junior, was married twice, and is described as of Northwoods, like his father; his wife died in 1715, at the birth of their son William, who died at the same time as his mother; Robert's (28) eldest son was Christopher (29), who was commonly known and is still remembered in the dale by the affectionate and patriarchal title of "Old" Christopher, and was born in 1703.

"Old" Christopher was born in his grandfather's lifetime, because his father Robert (28) is described as Robert BENSON, junior, of Northwoods, in the entry of his birth.

"Old" Christopher married Bridget CLARKE, described as of Appletrewick, a hamlet on the road to Bolton, in 1733. Why "Old" Christopher should have left his father's house and settled in Pateley Bridge is not certain, but family tradition represents him as having quarrelled with two maiden aunts who lived at Northwoods. This certainly fits in with the facts, as Robert (28) junior had three sisters, only one of whom seems to have married.

The Christopher BENSON (30), of Norwoods, who appears in the registers about this time, is, at first sight, a confusing element; he was no doubt a member of one of the many collateral branches then settled in or about Hayshaw and Dacre; I suggest that he is a son of Christopher (31), brother of John (12), of Banger House, and either was tenant of Upper Norwoods or

that "Old" Christopher may have by this time given up Lower Northwoods, where after his marriage he seems never to have resided, and his cousin Christopher (30) may have entered upon it.

"Old" Christopher was the real founder of the fortunes of the family; up till then they had lived the old Dalesman life on their own small estates, with large tracts of upland pastures, plentiful, prosperous, proud; they married as a rule early, had large families, lived to a considerable age, and were not different from their neighbours. Their life has been graphically described by Professor SEDGWICK, a Dalesman of Dent, in the Memorial and supplement on Cowgill Chapel. Doubtless they were decently educated, as the Yorkshire dales are rich in endowed grammar schools, and moved in a steady, humorous, unemotional groove.

"Old" Christopher largely augmented his modest patrimony. He died owning a good deal of land round Pateley Bridge, as Harefield, Towler Park, closes called Upper and Lower Ing, which afterwards sold for £1,500, the Island, the Priest's House, and other small properties, such as Stable Field, Lambert and Knott Intakes, Towler Close, and houses in Pateley Bridge; he bought the principal posting-house there, called then as now the Crown Inn, worth a few years after his death some £3000, a large sum in those days, and he established a large business with York as a

factor, to which his son Christopher (33) succeeded. This mercantile enterprise marks the break-up of the old quiet and self-contained Dalesman life: "Old " Christopher seems to have parted with his estate at Northwoods and purchased lands at Pateley Bridge, as being more convenient for communication with York; dairy produce raised on his own estate and purchased from neighbouring farmers was the staple of his business.

"Old " Christopher's wife survived him, and died in a house of her own at Pateley, next door to the Priest's House, the situation of which ~~can~~ be identified, and is buried in the same ~~tomb~~ as her husband. Of his children six survived him, one, Christopher (32), having died in the same month that he was born Oct. (1737), and a younger brother, born in 1744, being called by the same name, (33).

Of these children, the eldest son, Joseph (34), parted with the lands at Pateley to his brother Christopher, of York, and settled in Halifax. He married a HARDCASTLE, and as the name HARDCASTLE is common at Pateley Bridge and Dacre, where the grammar-school was founded by a HARDCASTLE, and as they are already connected by marriage with the family, it seems clear where Joseph found his bride.

The eldest daughter, Mary, married James DENT, and is buried at Pateley; the second daughter, Ann, married

Will BAYNE, descendant of a Nidderdale family, who trace their descent to Donald BANE, King of Scotland, and are now represented by a baronetcy. He was agent for Christopher BENSON (33) at Pateley Bridge, and afterwards got into difficulties; their son Thomas died in Manchester in 1867, at the age of 72, and is buried at Pateley, beside his father and mother.

Christopher (33) the fifth child, married Margaret, one of the HODGSONS, of High Cayton, South Stainley. Christopher BENSON (33) died a prosperous merchant in York. Mrs. Christopher BENSON inherited landed property at Stainley, from her father, Robert HODGSON, and uncle, Captain Morfit HODGSON. Christopher BENSON's will is extant, and he appears to have assessed his property at about £12,000, besides an estate at Huntington, near York; his wife died before him, of a fever contracted on a visit of charity; his property was divided between his two daughters, Ann, who married William SIDGWICK, of Stonegappe and Skipton Castle, and Eleanor Sarah, who married her first cousin, Captain White BENSON: his other children, five in number, all predeceased him, his eldest son dying the year he came of age. He with his wife and five children are buried in the Church of St. John, Micklegate, York, where there is a marble monument on the wall and a flagstone in the aisle.

Edward (35) BENSON, the sixth child of "Old" Christopher, married Ann, daughter of James SMITH, Esq., of Hill End,

and Greave House, near Halifax, and of Bingley House, Bingley; her sisters married, one Richard HOLLINS, who was a partner with Edward BENSON in a wine business at York, Ripon and Pontefract, and the other her cousin, Dr. CARR, of Leeds. Ann BENSON was a widow when she married Edward, having been married when quite a child, against her wish, and not happily, to a clergyman, NORMINTON by name. Mrs. Edward BENSON is buried at the East end of S. Saviour's Church, York, in a vault, by the side of her son John. Edward BENSON left by will a small sum of money in trust for St. Margaret's, Walmgate, for the service to be read as a memorial of him, on a certain day in the year. But enquiries at St. Margaret's fail to shew that this was carried out.

The last son of 'Old' Christopher was John (36), who married Ann, daughter of Dr. Richardson, of York, and left two children, John (37) and Joanna, whose fate was somewhat tragic. John BENSON, junior (37), was a thoughtless, unbusiness-like man, who spent all his own fortune, and as much of his sister's as he could induce her to part with. Joanna was engaged to be married to a certain Major SHAW, who fell down dead on the wedding morning before starting for church; she lost her reason through grief, and though she afterwards recovered, died young. Major SHAW died intestate, though an unsigned will was found leaving his estate to Joanna. Of Mr. John BENSON, senior, (36) it is recorded that in the summer he walked out of York every day to smell a beanfield.

Edward BENSON lived in Kirkgate House, close to the West end of Ripon Minster, opposite to Mr. Francis White, the Chapter clerk, whose monument may be observed over the western arch, or door, of the north aisle of the choir. Edward BENSON was Mr. WHITE's residuary legatee, and named his eldest son, (38) who was born at Ripon, in 1777, after him.

WHITE married his first cousin Elcanor Sarah, against the wish of her father Christopher, and wasted her property; upon his selling her land at Pateley his own father, Edward, bought it in, to save it. WHITE was a Lieutenant in the 6th Royals, Warwickshire Regt., commanded by Prince William, Duke of Gloucester, and served in the Irish rebellion of 1798, of United Irishmen under Lord E. FITZGERALD. He was a fashionable officer, and spent money freely; like his sister Maria, authoress of "Imitation," he had a gentle taste in literature, published a volume of ballads at Huddersfield, and passed for a wit in his regiment and in York society, but he left the army young, with the rank of Captain, and after staying many months with Mr. FRENCH, of Rocksavage, in Ireland, joined the business in Pontefract, and died in 1806, leaving an only son, Edward White BENSON.

White's brothers were Edward (39), a clergyman, Curate of Midhurst, Sussex, whose debts are named in his father's will, and who died young, and a brother John

(40), who also died young from a fall in the hunting field ; he married Elizabeth KELD, and died in his house in Boothams. Edward's eldest daughter, Ann Dorothea, married Thomas SKEPPER, attorney-at-law, who died in 1805 leaving one daughter, and afterwards Basil MONTAGU, natural son of Lord SANDWICH, and a Chancery Barrister of some note, the editor of Bacon and Selections from Taylor, Hooker, &c. (Pickering 1829). Her daughter, Anne SKEPPER, married Bryan Waller PROCTER (Barry Cornwall) and was mother of Adelaide Anne PROCTER ; she died in 1889, and was well known in London Society.

Edward White BENSON was a man of great natural gifts ; being of a delicate constitution, he was educated quietly at home by his mother, who afterwards married the Rev. Stephen JACKSON. She was, according to Mrs. Basil MONTAGU, 'a woman of accurate mind.' They sold their houses at York, and lived in various parts of England, taking houses in the country, as at Leighton Buzzard and Darlaston. Edward White BENSON was a keen student of chemistry, having been the pupil of DALTON and SOLLITT, and wherever he went, set up his laboratory. In 1826 he married Harriet BAKER, whose brother, Sir Thomas BAKER, was afterwards twice Mayor of Manchester. The BAKERS were Unitarians, children of Thomas BAKER, a member of Priestley's congregation, whose portrait hangs at Addington.

Edward White BENSON then settled at Wychbold, near Droitwich, living first at Ivy Cottage, since burned down and rebuilt as Elm Court, and afterwards at Brook House. He is still known at Wychbold as "the gentleman who first made lucifer matches in England." He was one of the first who made experiments in photography, and the polarisation of light, and he devoted himself to the study of the production of colours, particularly Cobalt, in which he invented processes still in use; he undertook the management of the Stoke Works, near Droitwich, and built the British Whitelead Works at Birmingham Heath. He published "Education at Home," in 1824, and "Meditations on the Works of God," in 1827; he was also a contributor to Dr. URE's Dictionary of Chemistry, and the Penny Cyclopædia. He was a fellow of the Royal Botanical Society of Edinburgh. He died prematurely in 1843. His eldest son, Edward White BENSON, is the present Archbishop of Canterbury.

At this point our biographical studies may cease.

We must conclude then that the BENSONS were a large and ancient family of no great pretension, living in Nidderdale from about 1300, and at first within the Liberty and in the service of the Abbey of Fountains.

They are not descended from the Cumberland BENSONS, who are a more important family, but whose genealogy

is in some confusion, as the members of the same family bear two different coats of arms, besides quartering the Baynes coat.

Mr. Henry BRADSHAW, University Librarian at Cambridge, used to say that the family was undoubtedly Scandinavian in origin, and had drifted west from Whitby; he believed that the name was originally, Björnsen, son of the Bear, and used to point to the family crest as a confirmation of this.

To the Whitby BENSONS, the bendlets and trefoils belonged, though the existence of Thomas BENSON 'Lord of Ryssup' is problematical. How this shield got into Cumberland and Lancashire,—for it is found at Hawkshead Church, near Ambleside, borne by John BENSON, of Beetham, a village in the north of Lancashire,—is hard to understand, especially as John BENSON had, if he liked to use it, the Cockermouth shield, which is a very good coat indeed.

The family of BENSON, of Halton near Skipton, is probably connected with the BENSONS of Pateley Bridge, though it has not been definitely proved. There seems reason to identify Robert BENSON, whose only daughter, Margaret, was born in 1570 at Dacre, with Robert BENSON, of Halton, whose great-great-grandson was afterwards created Lord BINGLEY.

When Robert BENSON, of Redhall, Outwood, Wakefield, M.P. for York, Chancellor of the Exchequer under Queen Anne, was made a peer, it was a matter of merriment, says a contemporary letter writer, that he had no coat of arms. His line seems doubtful, but he hitched himself on to the BENSONS of Knaresborough, as a creditable stock; got the shield of the Whitby BENSONS, or possibly the Beetham BENSONS, by an arbitrary act of Heralds' College, limited to his own heirs-male. For this reason, as his descendants in the female line, the Lane Fox family of Bramham bear it in pretence.

"Old" Christopher used to say (as is reported) that he was next of kin to Lord BINGLEY; but if this was so, the honour must have been shared by the forty or so members of the Nidderdale family then alive; and the facts, if they existed, have never transpired which would accredit the statement.

Dr. Martin BENSON, Bishop of Gloucester from 1735 to 1752, had a strange adventure in the matter of arms; his father was rector of Cradley in Herefordshire, and Dean of Hereford; when Martin BENSON was made a Bishop, he assumed the arms of William BENSON, of Boston, last Abbot and first Dean of Westminster (arg. on a chevron sa. three crosses patee or), but he never established his connexion by pedigree, and the Heralds do not allow the coat. Bishop Martin BENSON married a sister of Archbishop Secker and left children.

The connexion between the BENSONS of Pateley Bridge and Dr. Christopher BENSON, Master of the Temple, has been often discussed; Dr. Christopher BENSON belonged to the Cumberland branch, at Cockermouth, Egremont, Hassness and Elterwater, without the least doubt; the story that was taken to prove the connexion was that both "Old" Christopher BENSON, of Pateley Bridge, and Dr. Christopher BENSON, of the Temple, are with great solemnity reported to have said, that it was the custom in their families to call the eldest sons *Joseph and Christopher alternately*, and this seemed to imply some connexion that was more than fanciful; but when upon examination we find that Dr. BENSON's father was called Thomas, and his brothers, John, Robert, Thomas and Richard, and that "Old" Christopher's grandfather was Robert, and father Robert, and that his eldest son was Christopher, we see only another instance of statements on which we cannot build, and fancy embroidered upon fact to the absolute disappearance of the latter.

The last point worthy of notice is the curious decrease of so large a family, consisting of so many long-lived people; of the Pateley Bridge family the only representatives left there are Thomas BENSON of Summer Bridge, descended from Christopher (41) of DACRE, and Robert BENSON, of a hamlet called New York, descended from Robert BENSON, (42), of Low or Lacon Hall, whose daughter gave the altar chair in Dacre Church. Of "Old"

Christopher the only descendants left are one family of BENSONS themselves, the JACKSONS, the WOODHOUSES, the McDOWALLS, the PROCTERS, and possibly the BAYNES, and the various branches of SIDGWICKS, who are descended from William SIDGWICK of Stonegappe. The BENSONS of Halton seem to have disappeared ; there are BENSONS left at Bolton Abbey, too, but no connexion can be proved ; of Joseph, son of "Old" Christopher, there are no representatives that I can find in Halifax ; and the only BENSONS left in York are two carpenters, with whom no connexion is apparent.

The BENSONS are a stock perhaps best described in the words of Michel ANGELO, "simple persons who wore no gold on their garments". For nearly five hundred years they were nothing more than forefathers of the hamlet. Then came two generations of mercantile enterprise. In the whole Genealogy only three sought public service. Two of these have served in the army, one in the troubled times of Charles I, Captain Anthony BENSON ; one at the end of the last century, Captain White BENSON ; one was a clergyman, the Rev. Edward BENSON, great uncle of the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Archbishop is the first who for more than five hundred years has been born out of Yorkshire. As Lucretius says.

Anticum genus et pietate repletum

Perfacile angustis tolerabat finibus ævum.

An antique stock, to simple duties vowed,
In narrow bounds an easy life endured.

[The following characteristic description of the Montagu family, is taken from Thomas Carlyle's *Reminiscences*, from the chapter on Irving. It may be noted here that William Wordsworth, the poet, acted as tutor to a son of Mr. and Mrs. Basil Montagu.]

"The Montagu establishment (25, Bedford Square) was still more notable, and as unlike this as possible; might be defined, not quite satirically, as a most singular social and spiritual menagerie; which, indeed, was well known and much noted and criticised in certain literary and other circles. Basil Montagu, a Chancery barrister in excellent practice, hugely a *sage*, too, busy all his days upon 'Bacon's Works,' and continually preaching a superfinish morality about benevolence, munificence, health, peace, unflinching happiness. Much a bore to you by degrees, and considerably a humbug if you probed too strictly. Age at this time might be about sixty; good middle stature, face rather fine under its grizzled hair, brow very prominent; wore oftenest a kind of smile, not false or consciously so, but insignificant, and as if feebly defensive against the intrusions of a rude world. On going to Hinchinbrook long after, I found he was strikingly like the dissolute, questionable Earl of Sandwich (Foote's 'Jeremy Diddler'); who, indeed, had been father of him in a highly tragic way. His mother, pretty Miss Reay, carefully educated for that function; Rev. ex-dragon Hackman taking this so dreadfully to heart that, being if not an ex-lover, a lover (bless the mark!) he shot her as she came out of Drury Lane Theatre one night, and got well hanged for it. The story is musty rather, and there is a loose foolish old book upon it called 'Love and Madness,' which is not worth reading. Poor Basil! no wonder he had his peculiarities, coming by such a genesis, and a life of his own which had been brimful of difficulties and confusion! It cannot be said he managed it ill, but far the contrary, all things considered. Nobody can deny that he wished all the world rather well, could wishing have done it. Express malice against anybody or anything he seldom or never showed. I myself experienced much kind flattery (if that were a benefit), much soothing treatment in his house, and learned several things there which were of use afterwards, and not alloyed by the least harm done me. But it was his wife, the 'noble lady,' who in all senses presided there, to whom I stand debtor, and should be thankful for all this.

"Mrs. Montagu had by her former marriage, which had been brief, one daughter, six or eight years older than Emily Montagu. Anne Skepper the name of this one, and York or Yorkshire her birth-place; a brisk, witty, prettyish, sufficiently clear-eyed and sharp-tongued young lady; bride, or affianced, at this time, of the poet 'Barry Cornwall,' i.e. Brian W. Procter, whose wife, both of them still prosperously living (1860), she now is. Anne rather liked me, I her; an evidently true, sensible, and practical young lady in a house considerably in want of such an article.

She was the fourth genealogic species among those children, visibly the eldest, all but Basil's first son now gone; and did, and might well pass for, the flower of the collection.

"Ruling such a miscellany of a household, with Basil Montagu at the head, and an almost still stranger miscellaneous society that fluctated through it, Mrs. Montagu had a problem like few others. But she, if anyone, was equal to it. A more constant and consummate artist in that kind you could nowhere meet with; truly a remarkable and partly a high and tragical woman; now about fifty, with the remains of a certain queenly beauty which she still took strict care of. A tall, rather thin figure; a face pale, intelligent, and penetrating; nose fine, rather large, and decisively Roman; pair of bright, not soft, but sharp and small black eyes, with a cold smile as of enquiry in them; fine brow; fine chin (both rather prominent); thin lips—lips always gently shut, as if till the enquiry were complete, and the time came for something of royal speech upon it. She had a slight Yorkshire accent, but spoke—Dr. Hugh Blair could not have picked a hole in it—and you might have printed every word, so queenlike, gentle, soothing, measured, prettily royal towards subjects whom she wished to love her. The voice was modulated, low, not inharmonious; yet there was something of metallic in it, akin to that smile in the eyes. One durst not quite love this high personage as she wished to be loved! Her very dress was notable; always the same, and in a fashion of its own; kind of widow's cap fastened below the chin, darkish puce-coloured silk all the rest, and (I used to hear from one who knew!) was admirable, and must have required daily the fastening of sixty or eighty pins.

"There were many criticisms of Mrs. Montagu—often angry ones; but the truth is she did love and aspire to human excellence, and her road to it was no better than a steep hill of jingling boulders and sliding sand. There remained therefore nothing, if you still aspired, but to succeed ill and put the best face on it. Which she amply did. I have heard her speak of the Spartan boy who let the fox hidden under his robe eat him, rather than rob him of his honour from the theft.

"Her father, I gradually understood, not from herself, had been a man of inconsiderable wealth or position, a wine merchant in York, his name Benson. Her first husband, Mr. Skepper, some young lawyer there, of German extraction; and that the *romance* of her wedding Montagu, which she sometimes touched on, had been prosaically nothing but this. Seeing herself, on Skepper's death, left destitute with a young girl, she consented to take charge of Montagu's motherless confused family under the name of 'governess,' bringing her own little Anne as appendage. Had succeeded well, and better and better, for some time, perhaps some years, in that ticklish capacity; whereupon at length offer of marriage, which

she accepted. Her sovereignty in the house had to be soft, judicious, politic, but it was constant and valid, felt to be beneficial withal. 'She is like one in command of a mutinous ship which is ready to take fire,' Irving once said to me.'

[*The feeling caused among the surviving relatives and friends of the Procters and Montagus by the publication of the above was such, that in 1881 Mrs. Procter privately printed a number of Carlyle's letters to her mother, Mrs. Basil Montagu, showing the affectionate relation between them: in the introduction to this little book she characterises the majority of Carlyle's statement as 'malignant lies,' e.g. the fact of Mrs. Montagu having previously acted as governess to Basil Montagu, which is without any foundation of fact whatsoever: the true account of their romantic meeting is given in the next extract.*]

[From Miss Frances A. Kemble's "*Recollections of a Girlhood*."]

Vol. i., p. 204.

"Basil Montagu's conversation was extremely vivid and sparkling, and the quaint eccentricity of his manner added to the impression of originality which he produced upon one. Very unlike the common run of people as he was, however, he was far less so than his wife, who certainly was one of the most striking and remarkable persons I have ever known. Her appearance was extraordinary: she was much above middle height, with a beautiful figure and face, the outline of which was of classical purity and severity, while her whole carriage and appearance was dignified and majestic to the highest degree. I knew her for upwards of 30 years, and never saw her depart from a peculiar style of dress, which she had adopted with the finest instinct of what was personally becoming as well as graceful and beautiful in itself. She was so superior in this point to her sex generally, that having found that which was undoubtedly her own proper individual costume, she never changed the fashion of it. Her dress deserved to be called (what all dress should be) a lesser fine art, and seemed the proper expression in clothes of her personality, and really a part of herself. It was a long open robe, over a underskirt of the same material and colour (always moonlight silver grey, amethyst purple, or black silk or satin of the richest quality, trimmed with broad velvet facings of the same colour, the sleeves plain and tight fitting from shoulder to wrist, and and the bosom covered with a fine lace half-body, which came, like the wimple of old mediæval portraits, up round her throat, and seemed to belong in material and fashion to the clear chin-stay which followed the noble contour of her face, and the picturesque cap which covered without concealing her auburn hair and the beautiful proportions of her exquisite head.)

"This lady knew no language but her own, and to that ignorance (which one is tempted in these days occasionally to think desirable) she probably owed the remarkable power and purity with which she used her mother

tongue, her letters and conversation were perfect models of written and spoken English. Her marriage with Mr. Montagu was attended with some singular circumstances, the knowledge of which I owe to herself. She was a Yorkshire widow lady, and came with her only child (a little girl) to visit some friends in London with whom Basil Montagu was intimate. Mrs. Skepper had probably occasionally been the subject of conversation between him and her hosts, when they were expecting her: for one evening soon after her arrival, as she was sitting partly concealed by one of the curtains of the drawing-room, Basil Montagu came rapidly into the room, exclaiming (evidently not perceiving her) "Come, where is your wonderful Mrs. S? I want to see her." During the whole evening he engrossed her attentions and talked to her, and the next morning at breakfast she laughingly complained to her hosts that he had not been content with that, but tormented her in dreams all night. "For" said she, "I dreamt I was going to be married to him, and the day before the wedding he came to me with a couple of boxes, and said solemnly, "My dear Anne, I want to confide these caskets to your keeping: in this one are contained the bones of my first dear wife, and in this those of my dear second wife: do me the favour to take charge of them for me." The odd circumstance was that Basil Montagu had been married twice, and that when he made his third matrimonial venture, and was accepted by Mrs. S., he appeared before her one day, and with much solemnity begged her to take charge of two caskets, in which were respectively treasured, not the bones, but the letters of her two predecessors. It is quite possible he might have heard of her dream on the first night of their acquaintance, and amused himself with carrying it out when he was about to marry her; but when Mrs. Montagu told me the story I do not think she suggested any such rationalistic explanation of the mystery. Her daughter, Ann S., (afterwards Mrs. Procter), who has been all my life a kind and excellent friend to me, inherited her remarkable mother's gifts and special mastery over her own language: but she added to these, as part of her own individuality, a power of sarcasm which made the tongue she spoke in and the tongue she spoke with two of the most formidable weapons any woman was ever armed with. She was an exceedingly kind-hearted person, perpetually occupied in good offices to the poor, the afflicted, her friends, and all whom she could in any way serve: nevertheless, such was her severity of speech, frequently exercised on those whom she appeared to like best, that Thackeray, Browning and Kinglake, who were all her friendly intimates, sometimes design her as "Our Lady of Bitterness" and she is alluded to by that title in the opening chapter of "Eothen." A daily volume of wit and wisdom might have been gathered from her familiar talk, which was crisp with suggestions of thought in the liveliest and highest form. Somebody asked her how she and another acrid critic of her acquaintance got on together, she replied, "Oh, very well: we sharpen one another like two knives." Being congratulated on the restoration of cordiality between herself and a friend with whom she had

had some difference. "Oh, yes," said she, "the cracked cup is mended but it will never hold water again." Both these ladies, mother and daughter, had a most extraordinary habit of crediting their friends with their own wise and witty sayings, thus Mrs. Procter and Mrs. Montagu would say "Ah yes, you know, as you once said" and then would follow something so sparkling, profound, concise, incisive and brilliant, than you remained eyes and mouth open, gasping in speechless astonishment at the merit of the saying you never said (and couldn't have said if your life depended on it) and the magnificence of the gift its author was making out.

(Vol. iii., p. 176).

"Sunday, Jan. 29th, 1832. I took Mrs. Montagu up in the carriage on my way to church, and after service drove her home and found baby (Adelaide Procter) at dinner. That child looks like a poet's child, and a poet. It has something doomed (what the Germans call "fatal") in its appearance—such preternaturally thoughtful, mournful expression for a little child, such a marked brow over the heavy blue eyes, such a transparent skin, such pale golden hair. John says the little creature is an elf child. I think it is the prophecy of a poet. (And so indeed it was, as all who knew Adelaide Procter's writings will agree—a poet who died too early for the world, though not before she had achieved a poet's fame and proved herself her father's worthy daughter).

NOTE ON DATE OF BIRTH OF 'OLD' CHRISTOPHER BENSON, OF PATELEY BRIDGE.

On the tombstone of Christopher Benson, in the old churchyard at Pateley Bridge, it is recorded that he died April 17th, 1765, in the 61st year of his age; this would make the date of his birth 1704: as a matter of fact it was May 18th, 1703: it seems to be a mere mistake for "aged 61 years": Mr Thomas Benson, of Summerbridge, quotes a precisely similar mistake at Thornthwaite, and a like error of ten years at Pateley Bridge, and adds that the tombstone was erected some years after 'Old' Christopher's death, which makes the mistake still more easy to account for; in order to make certain an advertisement was inserted in the *Leeds Mercury* for an entry of birth of Christopher Benson, in 1704, which received no answer.

NOTE ON ROBERT BENSON (42) OF LOW HALL.

Robert Benson, brother of "Old" Christopher, lived for many years at Low Hall, a picturesque Manorhouse standing close to the line near Dacre Station. After his death it was occupied by his youngest son Michael.

NOTE ON THE BUCKS OF RISE HOUSE.

The Rise House (spelt Rice House in the Ordnance maps, but erroneously), was an estate close to High Cayton. The house was pulled down in 1871, and not only rebuilt by Mr. Rothery, the owner, but rechristened as Risey Hall. A modern farmhouse, to which the name of Rice House has been transferred, stands near the Wormald Green Station.

Mr. Francis Buck, senr., married Eleanor Hodgson, of High Cayton, sister of Mrs. Christopher Benson. They were a notable family: Mrs. Eleanor Buck was a well-read woman and a keen politician: her friends called her "Pitt in Petticoats;" several of her books "Fellowes' Christian Philosophy" "Fellowes' Religion without Cant"; "Letters of Rachel, Lady Russell," are in the Archbishop's possession. The Archbishop also wears old Mr. Buck's silver shoe-buckles, given to him by Miss Eleanor Baker in 1876.

NOTE ON CAPTAIN WHITE BENSON'S POEMS.

Since the Memoirs were sent to press, a selection of Captain White Benson's poems has been published by Dr. Charles Forshaw, of Bradford. It appears that the majority of his MSS poems were written about 1793, when he was sixteen years old; that he was writing poetry at Warwick in 1799, where he was then quartered, and that most of the poems in the book "Poems and Ballads" were written at or about that time. He was meditating the publication of a second volume.

NOTE ON LORD BINGLEY'S PEDIGREE, p. 17.

Robert Benson, Baron Bingley, claimed to be descended through the Bensons of Halton from the Bensons of Knaresborough, and is so registered in the Herald's College. But in that case he would have been entitled to a shield with sixteen quarterings, and would have had no need for a grant of arms. [It seems more probable that his great great-grandfather was Robert Benson, son of Christopher (19), and that the family migrated to Halton from Nidderdale].

NOTE ON MRS. EDWARD BENSON, p. 13.

Mrs. Edward Benson was famed for her charitable and active life in York. On the occasion of a visit to one of her poorer neighbours in St. Saviour's parish she found a mother and daughter both ill of scarlet fever, with no one to attend to their wants. She sent home for her things and constituted herself their nurse. On returning home, after their convalescence, she sank under an acute attack of the same malady.

NOTE ON MR. FRANCIS WHITE'S WILL, p. 14.

Mr. Francis White left his estates at Alford, in Lincolnshire, and Ripon, to his three friends,—his partners at whist, tradition relates—Edward Benson, Edward Brooks and Peter Taylor. The wife of the last named was Miss Elizabeth Benson, of Ripon. There were numerous other bequests such as mourning rings to the Prebendaries, plate and money to Dean Wanley, and a silver 'guggler,' on which Mr. White set great store, to

Mr. Taylor. His only son Francis was dead, and his wife he seems to have disinherited, but she was evidently otherwise provided for. Mr. White was a descendant of Bishop White, of Ely.

[Personal recollections of the Sidgwicks of Skipton, by A.C.B.]

In the summer of 1874, just before I went to Eton, my father, then Chancellor of Lincoln, took Martin, my elder brother, and myself to visit our relations in the North. We went first to Riddlesden Hall, near Keighley, where my great aunt, Mrs. John Sidgwick, then lived. It was an old Manor house, with quiet spacious gardens, bordered by a canal, with the moors behind. I remember the stained glass, with the arms of the Montalts, in the great staircase window, and a long low room with an alcove formed by a little projection over the porch, where we slept; my great uncle, John Benson Sidgwick, had been dead some time, and my only knowledge of him was derived from a photograph which represented him sitting at ease in an armchair, with a black velvet skull cap on his head and his patriarchal snowy beard growing over his chest. He was said to be the original of Mr. Yorke in "Shirley." Charlotte Bronte was governess to his children for some years. My great aunt Sarah, a Greenwood of Swarcliffe, was a little woman with a sweet face, who received us with gentle cordiality and won our hearts at once; I remember her telling us that she used to call my father "the little Bishop" when he was a boy: my cousin, Charles Sidgwick, was master of the house, and there was also there 'Tiffy' Drury, his sister, with her children; we fished for crawfish in the canal, and paid a visit to Old Riddlesden, a stately old house, now a farm, with large monastic barns.

A day or two after we went to Stonegappe, the house of my great-grandfather, William Sidgwick, at Lothersdale, near Skipton; as we went in at the gate from the Cononley Road, a short man, with a handsome bronzed face came out, carrying a knapsack; this was Frank Lace, my cousin.

We were received by Mr. Lace, my great-uncle, whose father had been Deemster of Man; he was a vivacious man and a considerable reader, a devoted 'Coleridgean': he had married as a young man, Miss Elizabeth Crofts, my mother's aunt, and lived at Ingthorpe Grange. They had seventeen children. He had since bought Stonegappe from John Sidgwick.

Mr. Lace had been a gentleman-commoner of University College, Oxford: he was a well-read man who did little else in his retired life but collect engravings and study general literature; he was however a magistrate for Skipton and regularly attended the meetings. I remember

him as a small white-haired man, very carefully dressed, with a difficult stammer, and very elaborate old-fashioned courtesy ; we walked about the grounds, and in the garden, and went down to the church : the house is beautifully placed in a well-wooded valley among the moors, with a stream at the bottom of the little park. I remember thinking all my cousins very good-natured and rather oddly brought up.

The same day we went on to Skipton, and stayed at the Raikes, my uncle Robert Sidgwick's house, just outside Skipton. My uncle Robert was then owner of the Low Mills. He was a tall very handsome silent man, with snowy hair and beard, very upright, and with the faculty of always looking well dressed, though never appearing to wear a new coat.

The next morning we went up to the Castle, rather in solemn silence as if to assist at some rite, to see uncle James : it was understood that he would be displeased if we did not go to him at once. We went up under the church and across the little lawn below the Castle ; we were shown, as far as I can recollect, into a room with curious alcoves and a large bookcase. Uncle James was a small delicate man, with high collars, and a black silk cravat wound many times round his neck : he wore a swallow-tailed coat very tight at the waist, and had a dangling bunch of seals. He did not seem to wish to detain us, but brought out a netted purse before we went, and handed my brother and myself each a sovereign saying, "I always give my young relatives of the third generation a sovereign, when they come to see me for the first time—and never again."

James Sidgwick had retired some time from the High Mills, and had done little since, except read : he did not join much in conversation, but late in the evening was pleased to retail the incautious statements made by members of the party, with corrections. He was something of a cynic. He was fond of *Bradshaw*, and always kept a copy by him, to work out cross-country journeys, which he never took ; being liable to cold he sat in a kind of porter's chair with a wicker-work hood ; he used to walk in the Castle Bailey every morning at eight, but was rarely seen abroad during the rest of the day.

In the afternoon we went to see uncle Christopher : he had retired young from the business ; he had been a strong Evangelical, but was a great student and thinker in Theology, and became a very High Churchman. He devoted his fortune to building and endowing Christ Church, Skipton. It was one of the earliest churches of the Gothic revival, and described by Bishop Longley as "a chaste and beautiful design." It had a stone altar, and, under the Chancel, a mortuary chapel ; every

detail in the church was carefully worked out, and seems now pathetically ugly and stiff.

He also built the Church Schools in Water Street ; here in old days he kept his books in a house adjoining the school, and came down from the Castle for service at 7 a.m. at Christ Church, and after breakfast retired to this hermitage to read till three, when he returned to the Castle to dine, with the refreshment of a slice of sponge cake, which was kept under a bell-glass on his table, and eaten at the stroke of twelve.

After the Board School came to Skipton, he closed his own school, and converted the great School-room with its timber roof into his own library. It was here we saw him—I remember a magnificent looking old man, with a somewhat bonny leonine face, dressed like an old Quaker, with a swallow-tail coat and frilled shirt-front, sitting in the midst of his books, which lay in some confusion ; he talked long and affectionately with my father, but took little notice of us.

He was a great Liturgiologist in days when such things were not well understood ; he used to take long walks with Richard Ward, whom he had appointed to Christ Church, discussing the rubrics point by point. My father has told me that some of Mr. Christopher's remembered comments were even useful to him in his judgement on the Lincoln case. " Our business in ritual is to discuss not what we should like," he used to say, " but what is right." This he carried out in the minutest details in his church, such as having a vessel of water by the font, because of the words " the font, which shall be then filled "—" not full," he used to say, " but filled." He would allow no representations of saints in the windows. " St. John does not say, Little children, keep yourselves from idolatry, but from ' idols,' that is from representations." He reserved the first three presentations to the living to himself, but by the speedy death or resignation of the first three incumbents, the patronage passed from his hands ; he wrote several tracts on ecclesiastical subjects. He is buried at the East end of the church which he founded. "*Istius ecclesie stabilitor*" has been cut more recently in the small stone which he ordered to be his only memorial.

The only other brother was the Rev. William Sidgwick, M.A., of Trinity College, Cambridge, a Wrangler and Master of the Skipton Grammar School. He died early, leaving four sons and one daughter, my mother ; his wife was Mary Crofts, sister of Mrs. Lace.

Mrs. Lace and Mrs. William Sidgwick (Elizabeth and Mary Crofts) were brought up at Bolton Abbey with their brothers and sisters, by their uncle, the well-known and able William Carr, B.D., Fellow of Magdalen, Oxford, a man of great taste and culture, author of " The Glossary of the Craven Dialect," and an intimate friend of Dr. Whitaker's : Mr. Carr is described

by Wordsworth, in the last note on the "White Doe of Rylstone," as (in his treatment of the woods and scenery of the Wharfe) "working with the invisible hand of art in the very spirit of nature." Mr. Carr was Rector of Bolton Abbey with Barden, and for many years was entrusted by the Duke of Devonshire with the entire care of the park and woods of the Abbey. There are beautiful portraits of him and of Mrs. Lace, his niece, by Phillips. For Mr. Carr's family, v. Whitaker's Craven, p. 425.

The High Mill was given up by Charles Sidgwick some years ago, and there is now no one of the name left in Skipton.

[*Notes on the etymology of the name "Sidgwick" from the "Life of Professor Adam Sedgwick."*].

The name is still pronounced (except where children's tongues have been doctored by pupil-teachers) 'Siggswick'; and has nothing to do with 'Sedge.' Neither the name nor the plant are known among my native hills.

The etymology of the word Sedgwick has been most kindly investigated by Professor Skeat, with the following result. "There can be no doubt," he says, "that Sedgewick was at first a place-name, and then a personal name," "wick" is not a true Anglo-Saxon word, but simply borrowed from the Latin "vicus" a town or village. "Sedge," or "Sedj," or "Sedg," is simply the later spelling of the Anglo-Saxon *secg*. Two distinct words were spelt thus: (1) the modern "sedge;" (2) a word which has now become quite obsolete, but was once in common use like *uir* in Latin. It is a derivative from *seg-an*, to say, and meant *sayer, speaker, orator*, and generally *man, hero, warrior*. It could easily be used as a personal name, as "man" is now; and *Segg-wic* is therefore a town built by Mr. Segg or Mr. Mann, as we should say at the present day.

When Sedgwick was making a geological tour in Saxony, he met a gentleman who was both a geologist and an antiquary. They fell into conversation about the etymology of his name, and it was decided it might originally have been Sieges-wick, "village of victory"; whereupon, taking into account the position of the village of Sedgwick, they amused themselves by inventing the following story:—

"Soon after the abandonment of England by the Romans, the Anglo-Saxons invaded the valley of the Kent, and settled there after they had driven out the ancient Britons. Then came successive crews of new invaders, Danes and Norsemen; and, during a lawless period, there were many conflicts between the earliest settlers and the piratical crews, which landed and were engaged in the highly exciting work of burning, plundering and cattle-lifting. On one of these occasions, plundering sea-rovers were repulsed by the older Anglo-Saxon inhabitants, in a battle

fought on the banks of the Kent; and the victory was commemorated, at first perhaps by a heap of stones, and then by a villiage built near the spot, which took the name of Segeswick, or village of victory."

Professor Skeat rejects this etymology, and Sedgwick did not advance it seriously; but even if it be erroneous, it may still be admitted that the hero who gave his name to the village may have established his reputation by an achievement not so very different from that which Sedgwick and his friend invented; and, in fact, there is still to be seen a large cairn or tumulus near the village in question, under which those who fell in some raid may have been interred. Moreover the presence of northern invaders in old days is amply attested by traces of their language still to be met with in the dales.

The ancestors of Adam Sedgwick have been statesmen of Dent for more than three centuries, but their origin, the orthography of their name, and its etymology, have occasioned many rival theories. In 1379 the name is spelt Sygghelswyk, Seghewyk, in 1563 Seeggeswyke; between 1611 and 1619 the parish registers of Dent give Sidgsweeke; in 1624, Siddgswicke; between 1645 and 1696, Sidgwick or Sidgswick. Between 1700 and 1737 the name is entered thirty-six times. Of these entries two in 1701, and one in 1736, give Sidgewick; all the rest Sidgswick. The earliest Sedgwick at Dent appears on the tomb of the Rev. James Sedgwick, great-uncle to Adam Sidgwick, who died in 1780: but in his register of baptism, 30th, Sept. 1715, he is entered as son of John Sidgswick. Adam Sedgwick maintained that the spelling of the family name was deliberately changed by this James Sedgwick, at the suggestion of the then master of Sedbergh school. On the other hand, a branch of the family who had settled at Wisbech, in the Isle of Ely, called themselves Sedgewick at the beginning of the seventeenth century, and they are said to have adopted a characteristic crest, a bundle of sedge bound up in a form like that of a wheat sheaf. Hence it became natural to seek for the origin of the family in "a village built on fenny ground, with an abundance of the water-plant called sedge", and Sedgwick in Westmoreland, near the head of Morecambe Bay, was fixed upon as the birthplace of the clan, from the similarity of sound, though it does not fulfil the other conditions. Adam Sedgwick rejects these theories for the following reasons

1. "First because the word sedge is, I think, unknown in the dialect of the northern Dales.
2. Because the well-known village Sedgwick, is built upon a high and dry soil that is washed by the beautiful waters of the Kent, a stream that runs brawling over the rocks.
3. Because the word Sedgwick does not give the sound of the name as it was uttered among the ancient inhabitants of the mountains; nor does

it come near to the spelling used in former centuries. The name is at this time pronounced Sigswick by the natives of the Dales.

The same information is cast in a more humorous form in the following letter. "The Sidgwick you mention is of the Dent Stock. His great-grandfather was brother to my great-grandfather. It may be one step higher; for I am a sorry genealogist. In the old parish register the spelling was always with two "i." My father's uncle altered the spelling, and adopted the "Cyclopic" form (at the foolish suggestion of an old pedant of Sedbergh school), when he was a boy. He afterwards educated my father and sent him to college; and so it came to pass that all my dear old father's brood were born with one i; or at least were so docketed on all high-ways and in all post-towns."

CHRISTOPHER BENSON OF DACRE.

Christopher Benson (41) was married on May 29, 1679, in Ripon Minster, to Frances, daughter of William Hardcastle, Esq. The latter was the founder of Dacre Banks School in 1695. The school has been rebuilt, but the old foundation stone is still preserved:

Ex dono
W. H.
1695.

It may be noticed that the Braithwaite School, near Banger House, was founded by Edward Yates (v. John Benson (11)) in 1774. It owns two farms, soon to be worth £100 a year.

Mr. Thomas Benson, of Summerbridge, points out that the disappearance of the old industry of hand-loom weaving in Dacre has caused the great decrease of population in the district. He adds that at the beginning of the century there were 100 looms in the parish, which now contains only one.

SUPPOSED RELIC of THOMAS BENSON of NORTHWOODS (1692).

In the summer of 1890, when travelling in Yorkshire, I found at Settle a large quantity of oak furniture and panels that had come from Nidderdale, "from the neighbourhood of Pateley Bridge."

I purchased a number of the panels—which have been made up into a tall chimney-piece,—an oak chair of ancient design, and finally a large oak sideboard, now at Lambeth (1894), with the inscription upon it

T. B. 1692.

Thomas Benson, brother of Rob. Benson, sen., of Northwoods, married in 1679 Jane, the widow of John Darnbrook, and had issue, John and Elizabeth, who died as children. His wife died in 1690. He married again in 1692 and had issue, Thomas, born 1694.

WILLIAM SIDGWICK of SKIPTON,—Examination before Royal
Commission.

1816,—*Reports of Committees. Vol. III.*

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE before COMMITTEE ON 'STATE OF CHILDREN
EMPLOYED IN MANUFACTORIES.'

SIR ROBERT PEEL in the Chair..

Mr. WILLIAM SIDGWICK, called in and Examined.

' You are a considerable manufacturer ? '

' I am a cotton spinner at Skipton.'

' How many years have you been so ? '

' From the year 1784, that is, about one or two and thirty years.'

.....

' What is the general health of the children employed in your mills
compared with those not so employed ? '

' I consider the health of the children we employ very good ; and,
as a matter of opinion, I think the health of the children employed
much better than the health of the children running at large.'

' What is the number of the children you have employed, during the
last eighteen months, as nearly as you can recollect ? '

' I should suppose from 100 to 120, but this is a mere guess.'

.....

' Is the conduct of the children employed more regular and orderly
than it was thirty years ago ? '

' I was not an inhabitant of Skipton—I lived in Leeds—and there-
fore I cannot speak to the moral conduct of the inhabitants of Skipton
at that time.'

.....

' What are the number of hours which you work in your cotton factory ? '

' We work from 5 o'clock in the morning till 12 o'clock, and we
work from 1 o'clock to 7, making 13 hours.'

' Is there any refreshment during that time ? '

' The breakfast is brought to the people at the mill, generally by
the parents of the children, and they are received from half-past 7
to 9, according to the convenience of the parents.'

' What is the age at which you take in children at your cotton factory ? '

' I should suppose about nine, ten or eleven.'

[He afterwards states that refreshment is sometimes brought in the afternoon. Then he is asked:]

‘ Should you suppose, in the morning and the afternoon together, half an hour or three-quarters of an hour is occupied in taking refreshment ? ’

‘ As to myself, I view it in this way, that there is no remittance of labour; The labour of the mills is not perpetual labour, it is attention; and the child may be half an hour together and have no labour to perform; so that the child takes refreshment at his convenience and there is no interruption to the child; the master passes by and takes no notice.’

.....

‘ Should you imagine that children confined fourteen or fifteen hours a day in cotton mills would be so healthy as those who are only confined ten or twelve hours ? ’

‘ Upon my word, I should think there would be no diminution of health; I do not see any reason to apprehend a diminution of health.’

‘ Do you know any manufactory, in fact, that works fourteen or fifteen hours ? ’

‘ I do not.’

APPENDIX.

Extract from Letters of A. H. Inman, Sept. 1893.

“Lands at Bishopside and Pateley Bridge, which my great grandfather, Charles Inman, inherited, and which were sold about 1793 to Christopher Benson. . . . Charles Inman’s epitaph (Jamaica, 1768) was composed by one Moses Benson, and, as I said before Christopher Benson bought Harefield, our last possession in Nidderdale, from Charles Inman’s son Robert, about 1790.”

Extracts from Chancery Documents.

Referring to Thomas Benson, son of Christopher Benson (8), of Banger House. “1576-7, Hilary Term, 19 Elizabethæ. Plaintiff, Thomas Benson, gent. Deforciant, Ludovic Mordaunte, Kt., Lord Mordaunte and Elizabeth his wife, and Henry Darcy, Kt., and Katherine his wife. Name and situation of the property. 16 messuages, a water mill, and a fulling mill, with lands in Bewerley, and a moiety of the manor of the same.”

“1601, Trinity Term, 43 Elizabethæ. Plaintiff, John Armitage, Esq. Deforciant, Thomas Benson, gent. Property—The Manor of Bewerley, six messuages and a water mill, with lands in the same.”

“Court of Chancery, 1581. The plea of William Gresham to the Lord Chancellor, against Marmaduke Danby, Humphrey Bayne, Edward Thackeray, William Inman, Robert Benson: who by cause of having divers deeds, charters and evidences, have contrived and conveyed divers sundry and secret estates unto persons unknown, and therefore they detain and keep possession of said lands and tenements, in Netherdale and Marshland, and also the charters. Praying that they may be made to personally appear in the Court of Chancery. William Gresham, Kt.”

BENSON WILLS.

From the Peculiar Court of Masham Wills, Somerset House :—

James Benson, Kirby Malzeard, 1586.

Richard Benson, Cawfield, 1586.

Jennet, K. M., vid., 1608.

Robert Benson, Cawfield, 1609.

Miles Benson, Cawfield, 1609.

William Benson, Cawfield, 1618.

William Benson, Ragill, Netherdale, 1627.

Christopher Benson, East Holme House, Netherdale, 1639.

William Benson, Bouthwaite, 1668.

Miles Benson, Bouthwaite, 1668.

Miles Benson, Bouthwaite, 1711.

Will of Wm. Inman, 1614, to Christopher Benson of Bouthwaite,
20s. Will of Jennet Inman (widow of Wm. I.) to Christopher
Benson of Low Holme House, a small bequest. Witnessed by
C. Benson, &c. Will of Michael Inman, 1692, witnessed by
Christopher Benson, &c.

Archdeaconry of Richmond Wills.

Richard Benson, 1566 (lost).

Leonard Benson, Wath, 1564, mentioning his children Thomas,
William, Richard, Mabel, Agnes, John, Anna : wife's name
Margaret.

Eleanor Bowes,
b. 23rd February, 1833,
m. Thos. Chauncey Hare,
of Gosbury Hill, Hook,
April 4th, 1872,
d. February 22nd, 1890.

Mary Eleanor H.
b. Nov. 24, 1874, b. l
d. 6 April, 1883. m. Ar
16th

Christop
Benson (1
b. October 10
1871.

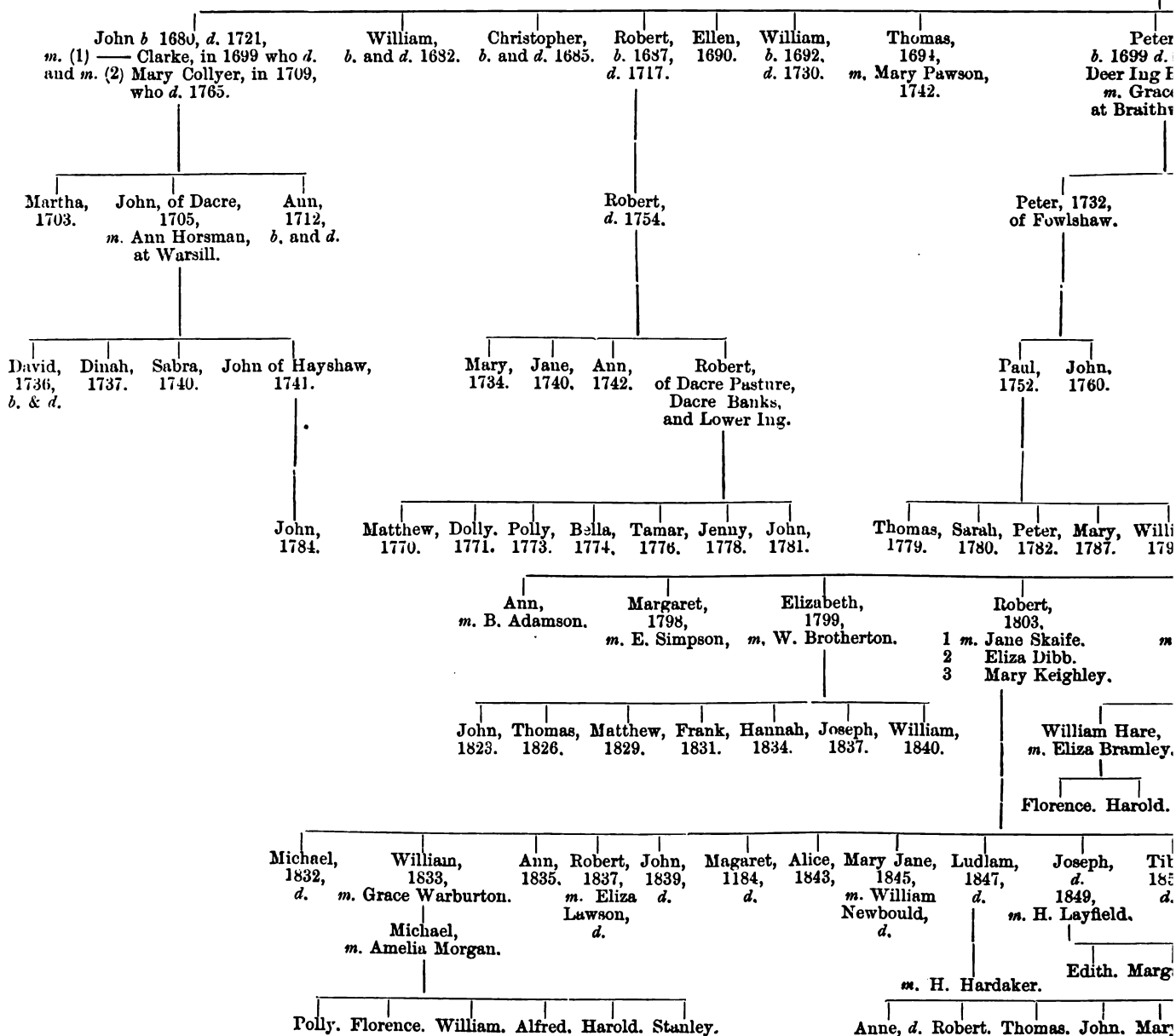
Christopher,
b. July 11th, 1835,
m. August 10th, 1870
Agnes Elizabeth,
d. of Professor Walker
d. November 7th, 1890

Mary W. b. Feb. 1859, m. Arthur Crofts, 6th Jan. 1883.	Steph b. June 18 m. Loui Bro Jan. 14
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Christopher Crofts, 10th, 1883.	Word 6th A
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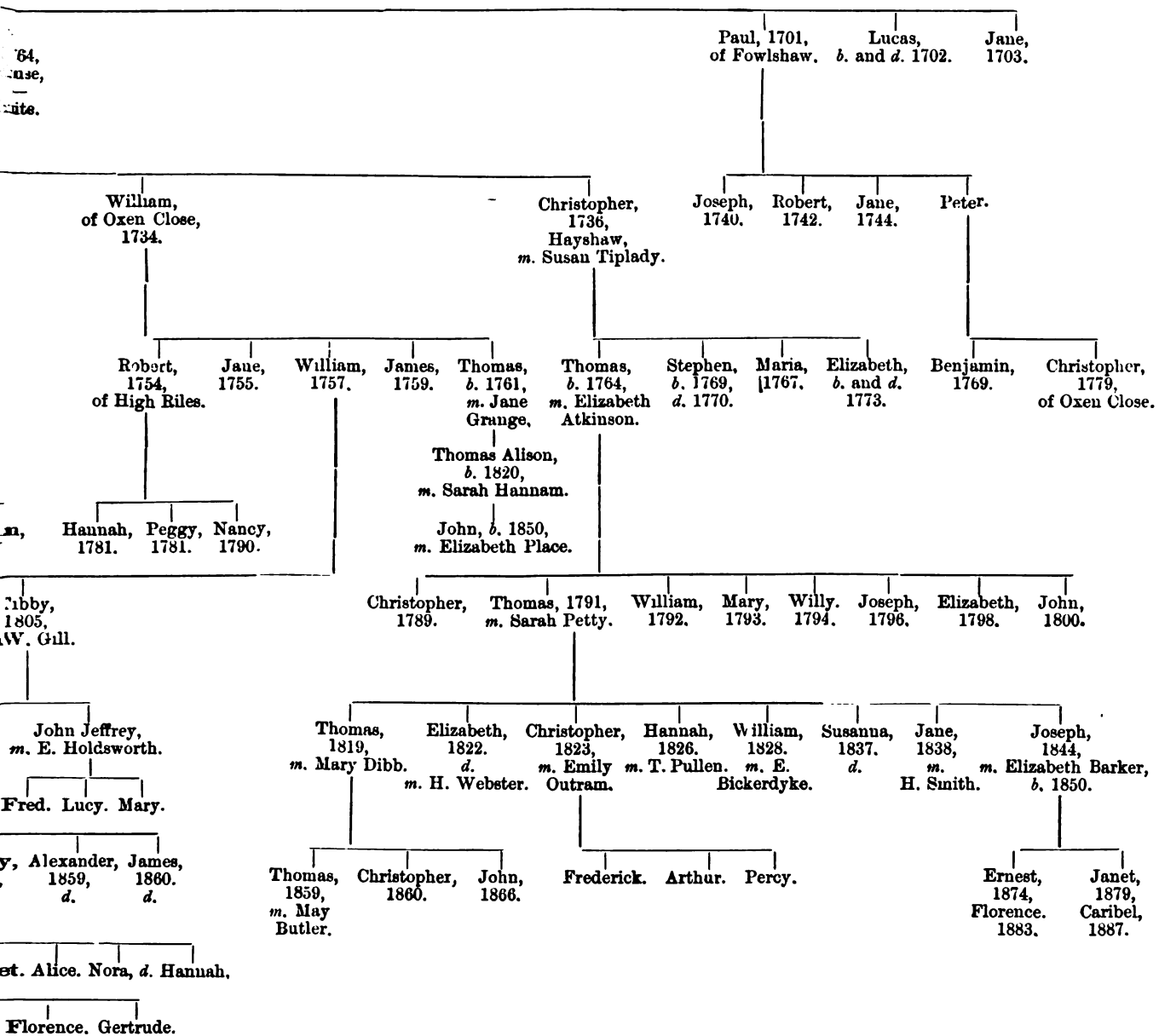
BENSON of Dacre.

Christopher of Dacre (41), *m.* Fra
† *d.* 170



(see previous Sheet.)

es, dau. of Wm. Hardcastle.



SIDGWICK of Stonegappe and Skipton Castle.

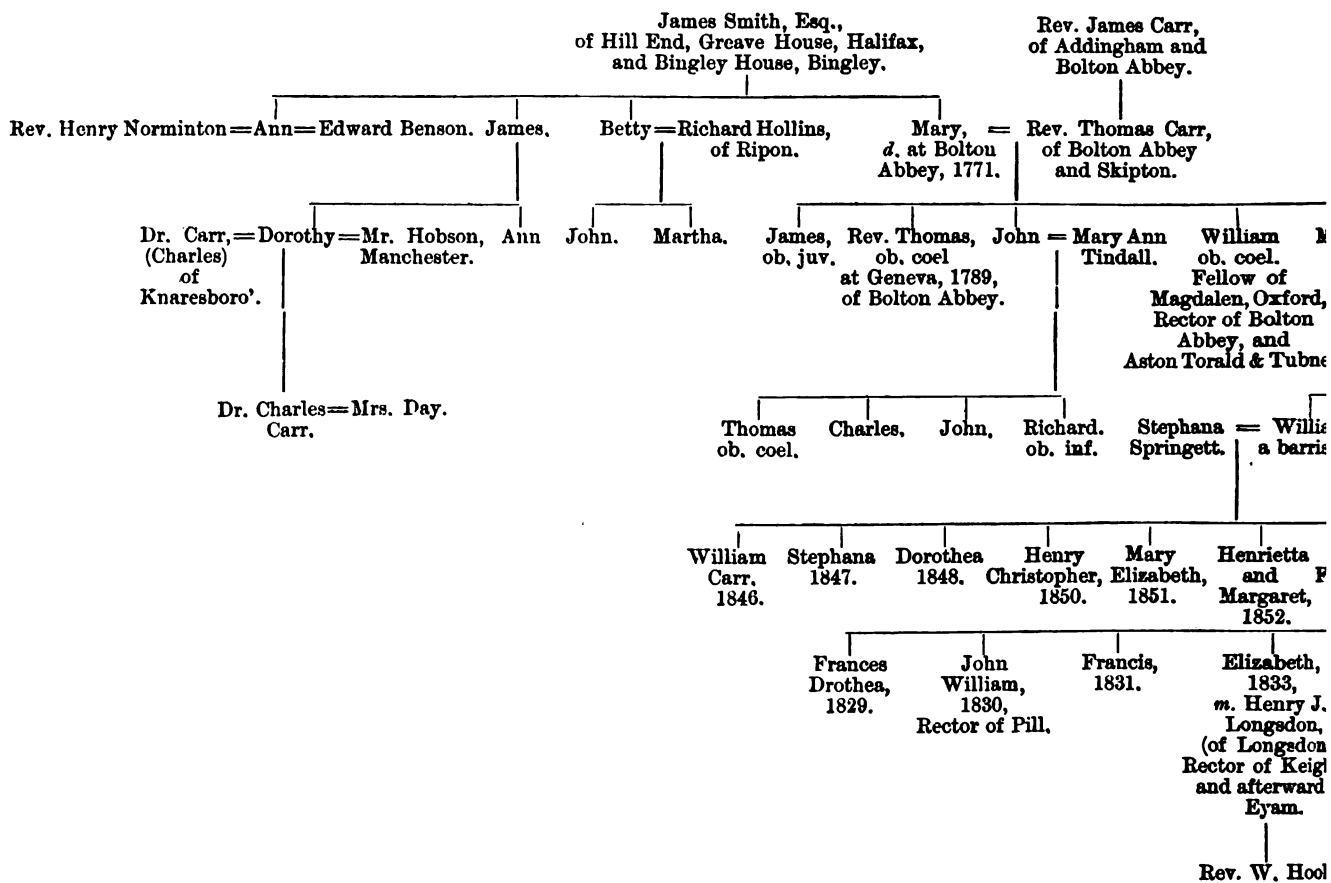
John Sidgwick, of Leeds and Bingley = Mary Shirecliffe (of Shirecliffe).
d. Aug. 15, 1791. Aged 71. *d.* May 8, 1803.
 Buried in Bingley Church. Aged 78.
 William Sidgwick, = Ann Benson.
b. August 22, 1765.

John Benson, <i>b.</i> June 30, 1800, Stonegappe, after of Riddlesden Hall, Keighley.	—Sarah Hannah Greenwood, of Swarcliffe Hall.	Christopher • ob. coel. <i>b.</i> June 25, 1804. <i>d.</i> 1877.	William, = Mary Crofts. <i>b.</i> April 21, 1806. <i>d.</i> 22 May, 1841. v. below.	Edward ob. juv. <i>b.</i> June 3, 1808.	Margaret, ob. juv. <i>b.</i> May 30, 1810. <i>b.</i> October 25, 1812, <i>d.</i> Jan. 18, 1890, at Skipton Castle.	James, ob. coel. <i>b.</i> October 25, 1812, <i>d.</i> Jan. 18, 1890, at Skipton Castle.	Mary Jane Ward = Robert Hodgson, of Down House, Bristol. October 10, 1816. <i>d.</i> July 1, 1886.
Margaret, = Rev. John Cooper, N.A. 14, 1827. v. of Embsay.	William, April 25, 1829.	Matilda, = Mark H. Drury. Aug. 3, 18	(Rev.) John Benson, August 2, 1835, Rector of Waynflete, m. Dulcibella Twining.	Edward, = Lucy M. Charles, = Caroline July 21, 1839. Aug. 10, Oxley. 1845.	Robert, = Agnes Aug. 7, Mellish, 1851.	Elizabeth Anne = Stephen Albert Marshall, of Ambleside.	Alfred = Cecily N. Ullmann.
Catherine, Mark Edward, Aug. 30, 1863. Nov. 9, 1864.	John William, Oct. 6, 1866.		Maude Caroline, July 11, 1869.	Edward Dury, Feb. 27, 1871.	Alexandra Dury, June 3, 1872.	Charles Kator Dury, July 12, 1873.	Blanche Theodora, Sept. 5, 1874.
Frances Emily, Sept. 26, 1863.	William Benson, Jan. 3, 1865, ob. July 7, 1885.	Margaret Dulcibella, June 12, 1866, ob. Feb. 5, 1884.	Charles Twining, March 5, 1868.	Richard Twining, Dec. 22, 1869.	John Benson, March 4, 1873.	Theodora, Oct. 27, 1874.	Edith, May 15, 1881.
William Carr, = Isabel Thompson. Tutor of Merton College, Oxford, <i>b.</i> April 29, 1834.	Rose, at Tenby, ob. juv. <i>b.</i> Oct. 25, 1835. <i>d.</i> 25 Sep., 1841.	Edward Plunkett, ob. juv. <i>b.</i> Jan. 6, 1836. <i>d.</i> Aug. 17, 1840.	Henry, = Eleanor Mildred D. Litt. Balfour, Professor of Whittinghame. Corpus Christi College, Oxford. <i>b.</i> May 29, 1838.	Arthur, = April 9, 1840. Tutor of Corpus Christi College, Oxford.	Charlotte Wilson, of Nocton. <i>b.</i> March 21, 1841, Edward White Benson, Archbishop of Canterbury.		
Neville. Herbert.	Rose, <i>b.</i> Jan. 9, 1877.	Ethel, <i>b.</i> Dec. 20, 1877.	Frank, <i>b.</i> July 7, 1879.	Margaret, <i>b.</i> Oct. 2, 1882.			

• Founder of Christ Church, Skipton.

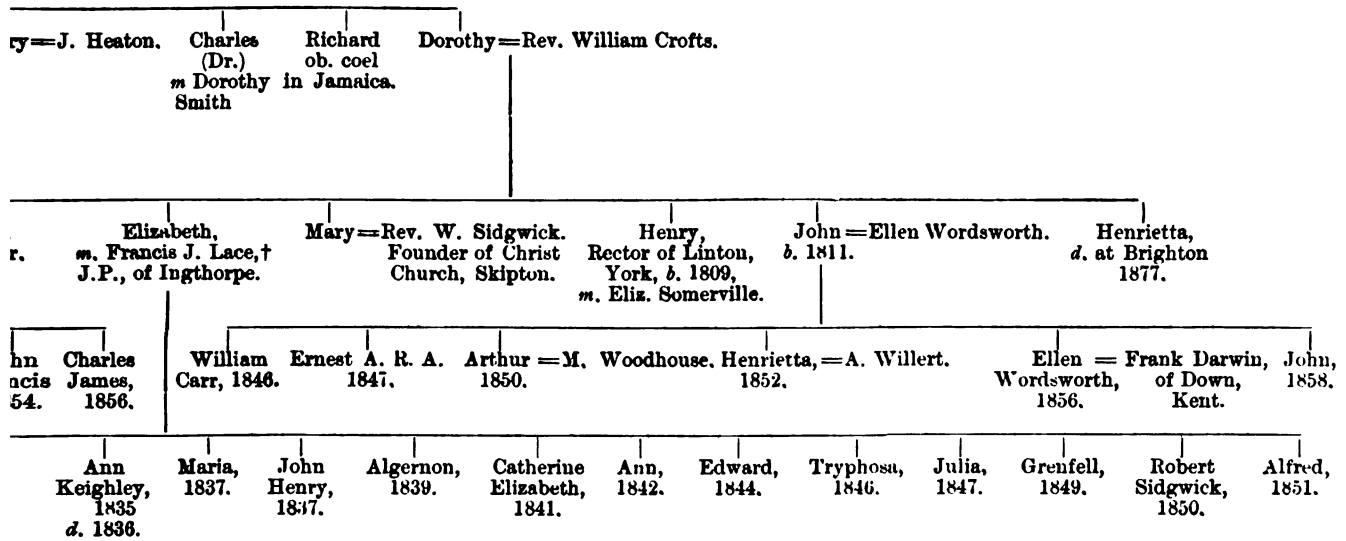
(Rev.) William SIDGWICK, M.A., = Mary Crofts.
 of Skipton.

SMITH, of Hill End, and Greave Hou



† NOTE.—The father of F.

by, Halifax, and Bingley House, Bingley.



LACE was Deemster of Man.

In 1539 Randall Hodgeson, son of the above, held the Grange at Sutton (341 acres.)

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An ancestor of this family settled at Braccamoor or Beckamore, near Ripon, where Francis Hodgson died in 1847.

An offshoot of this family settled at Breckinridge of Decatur, near Aspinet, where Francis Hodgson (died in 1801). Francis Hodgson, B.D., the friend of Lord Byron, Archdeacon of Derby and Provost of Eton, was of this family.

Robert Hodgeson, of High Cayton.

Robert Hodgson, of High Cayton,
 m. Eleanor Bowes.

Eleanor Taylor=Robert Hodgson,
of High Cayton
and Nunwick.

Morfit Hodgson (Capt.)
of S. Stainley.

Mary,
b. 1740,
d. 1817.

Mary,
1740,
1817.
ob. juv.

Eleanor
b. 1738,
m. 1772,

F. B.
Rise H.
Rip

use,

Chr
un,
768.

**Christopher B
of York**

son = M.

garet.
1750,
1795.

Sarah
1740,

John Bak
of Helms
Blackmoor

1

Francis Buck.
d. June 14th, 1858

Mary
d. M.
18

Buck. Jo
4th, b.
3. d.

A. B. 172, f.

n. B.
774.

— B.
775,
808.

Maria B.
b. 1777.
m.

H.

m.

1778.

er.	Fler	<i>b.</i>	<i>d.</i>
ow.			

or B.
80,
f.

arah,
1782,
1782.

BUCK, of Rise House, Ripley.

Francis Buck,

**Francis
W. Eleonor
Hodgson.**

Matthew,

Francis. Mary.

Matthew,
of Rise
House, 1858

Francis Buck,
ob. coel.

John B.
b. 1798,
d. 1865.

Hodgson B
b. 1801,
d. 1871, at

B. b. 1803,
W. Galloway,

Barbara B.
b. a d. 1805.

Eleanor B., James B.
b. 1811, b. 1814,
d. 1877. d. 1837,

S. Eleanor Galloway, Arthur.

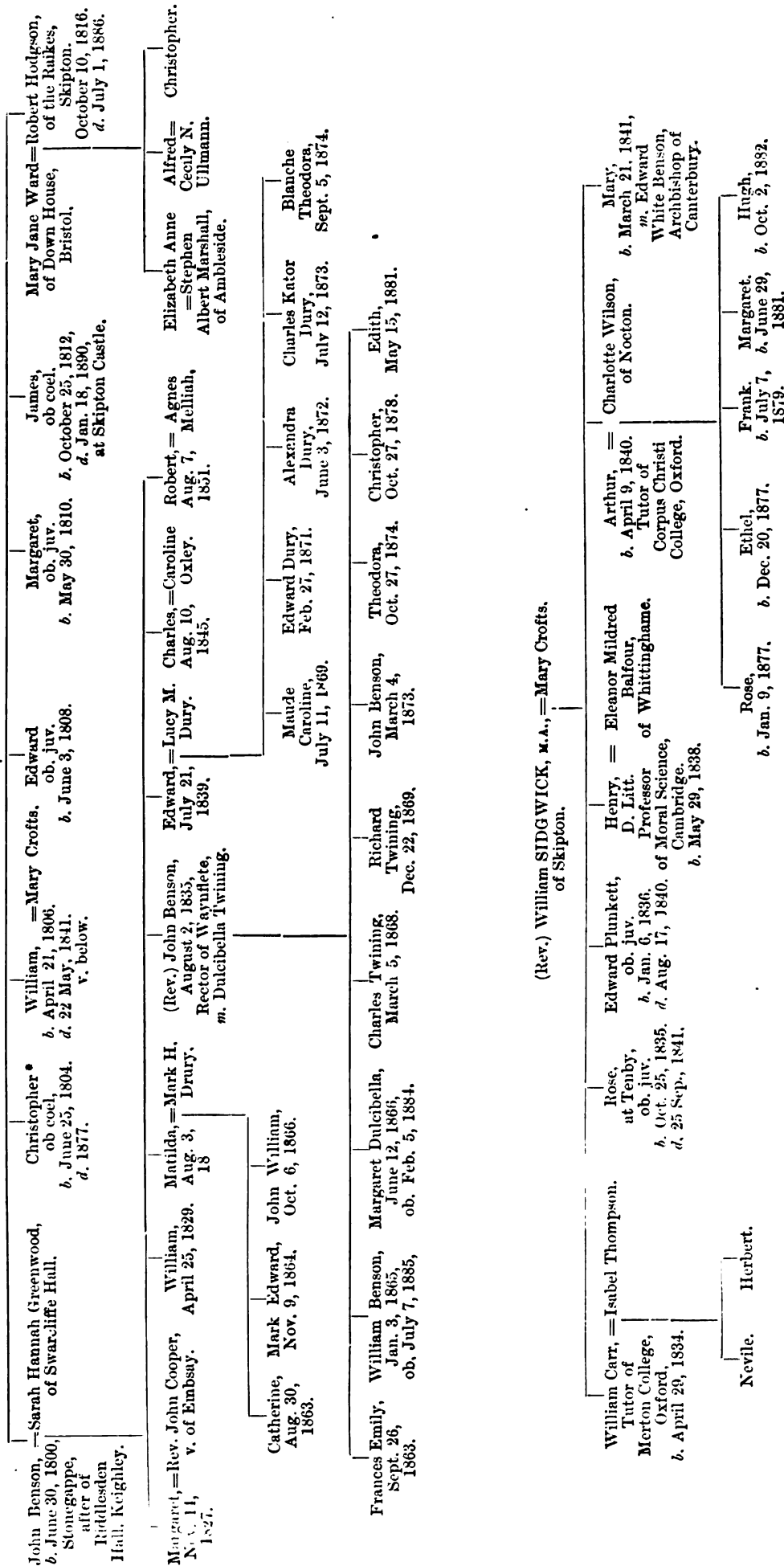
AA
-22

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